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5 trace elements
in the form of a
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THE KABUL TIMES

Fresh vapour in
consequence for growing
children and the elderly
easy to take

Becozym
sirup

VOL. VI, NO. 264

KABUL, SUNDAY, FEBRUARY 4, 1968 (DALW 14, 1346 S.H.)

PRICE AF 1

THEIR MAJESTIES INVITED TO VISIT JAPAN

KABUL, Feb. 4, (Bakhtar).—The Emperor of Japan has invited Their Majesties the King and Queen to pay an official visit to Japan.

Hideki Masaki, ambassador of Japan in Kabul, called on Prime Minister and Foreign Minister Noor Ahmad Etemadi yesterday morning in the Prime Ministry and extended the invitation on behalf of Emperor Hirohito, the empress and the government of Japan to Their Majesties, a source of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs announced.

According to another report Their Majesties have accepted the invitation with thanks. The exact date of the visit, which will take place in 1969, will be fixed later.

CHAKANSOOR RENAMED NEEMROZ

By Our Reporter
KABUL, Feb. 4.—The former province of Chakansoor has been renamed Neemroz. The province with its capital in Zarinj is situated southwest of the country with an area of 54,336 sq. km., it is the second largest province. It has a population of 1,119,944 the smallest because of salt marshland and a wind that blows 120 days of the year. The temperature in summer rises as high as 40 C, 104 F.

Neemroz is the original name of the area in the ancient Pahlavi language from which old Persian is derived.

"The name has been mentioned in Pahlavi literature of the 6-7th century A.D. After the development of Farsi in the 8th and 9th centuries the area was still referred to as Neemroz.

"Moslem geographers after the 9th century also referred to it as Neemroz and the Seistan rulers of the 12th century also called the area by the same name," said Prof Abdul Hai Habibi, president of the Afghan Historical Society.

The name of Chakansoor is a Balouchi word for fortress. Balouchi is spoken in various areas of the province such as Char Borjak, Kari Allahabad, Kari Sikh and Khwaja Ali Aofia.

Recently a 12th century coin was found with the name Neemroz minted on it. On the basis of such evidence the change in the name was proposed by the Ministry of Interior and accepted by the cabinet.

Chakansoor will now be the name of one of the woleswalis of the province.

North, South Yemen Bonds Being Strengthened

ADEN, Feb. 4 (DPA).—Efforts are being made to strengthen the political and social bonds between the two Yemeni republics, in the north the Yemeni Arab Republic, and in the south the People's Republic of South Yemen.

The new state of South Yemen is committed to eventual union with its northern neighbour and has established a ministry to work out the process of unification.

Similarly, the northern republic has created a special portfolio for the same purpose. Thus Aden does not intend to establish diplomatic relations with Saana much like Beirut and Damascus.

They may, however, open offices for unity affairs in each others capital or set up a special and permanent commission for pursuing their objective of forging increasingly closer relations with each other.

The minister in charge of unity affairs in South Yemen, Abdul Fatah Ismail, is himself a Yemeni and is also in charge of information and cultural affairs.

The two republics are already linked together in many ways of mutual benefit and interest.

There are 150,000 Yemeni nationals in Aden as workers, traders, shopkeepers, restaurateurs, builders,

V.C. FIERCELY FIGHT TO KEEP HOLD ON CITIES

SAIGON, Feb. 4 (Reuters).—Viet Cong guerrillas are fighting savagely to keep hold on the towns and villages of South Vietnam where, despite huge losses, they have scored an impressive psychological victory over the American-backed government.

After five-days of ferocious street fighting the elegance of the old imperial capital of Hue has been ravished. The provincial capitals of Can Tho and Ban Me Thuot are in flames and Da Nang—which took the initial assault on Monday—is badly shaken.

Saigon, itself a battlefield for four days, was quiet last night.

But fierce fighting continued on the outskirts of the capital as American and South Vietnamese forces tried to cut off the withdrawal of Viet Cong units.

American aircraft struck the Viet Cong 32 times during the daylight hours and senior U.S. embassy officials said the guerrillas were still capable of launching a new wave of attacks on Saigon.

Reports reaching here said North Vietnamese troops were still in control of a third of Hue.

American marines reached the Hue city jail and found that 2,000 prisoners, mostly captured Viet Cong, had been released.

Informed observers here said confidence in the government's ability to provide security for the people had slipped tremendously during the past five days.

Brig. Gen. John Chaisson, Operations Director of U.S. forces here, said the Viet Cong drive might force a redeployment of units from the countryside to protect cities and towns.

Many people were saying that the five violent days had shocked the nation more than anything else in 20 years of war.

"Vietnam is burning and I am afraid it will die," a Saigon businessman said.

Every sanctuary previously offered in towns and cities had been violated.

A Vietnamese journalist said the middle classes were confused and uncertain and, the poor terrified, believing that now there was nowhere for them to go.

U.S. military officials said Kontum city in the central highlands three Mekong Delta provincial capitals—My Tho, Ben Tre and Vinh Long—were still being contested.

Government officials reported dozens of Viet Cong attacks Friday night and during yesterday on small towns and military positions.

U.S. officials have estimated that some 36,000 guerrillas have launched attacks on 35 centres since last Tuesday.

Material damage has been immense.

Kontum, Nha Trang and Qui Nhon have been heavily damaged in street fighting and Gen. William Westmoreland, the U.S. commander, has reported great destruction in the cities of Pleiku, My Tho and Ben Tre.

Refugee Minister Dr. Nguyen Phuoc Que said 15,000 Saigon citizens were made homeless in the street fighting of the past few days and

VIET CONG SAY THEY HAVE WON THE WAR

HUE, Feb. 4 (AFP).—The North Vietnamese soldier who captured us said: "We're happy, because we've won the war."

From 9 a.m. to noon Friday, French woman photographer Catherine Leroy and I were the prisoners of North Vietnamese troops occupying the city of Hue.

We had been captured while trying to get back to American lines after spending the night inside Hue cathedral with the city's 4,000 refugees.

The North Vietnamese who captured us were well armed and wore dark khaki uniforms. A captured American tank guarded their command post.

The night of their attack on Hue, I learned, they had captured six government tanks and turned the South Vietnamese guns against the South Vietnamese.

During the few hours we spent in North Vietnamese custody, we saw at least 100 of them sheltered in individual foxholes, in machine-gun nests and in anti-tank gun positions.

A 26 year old noncommissioned officer guarding us said he had been six years in the North Vietnamese army. He had arrived in the south three years ago and had been wounded once.

A Vietnamese interpreter translated our conversation.

For all these soldiers, their job was to liberate Hue and South Vietnam. Their attitude could be summed up as: "We've waited a long time but now we're here."

They acted like victors, perfectly relaxed, and after they realised we were French journalists they spoke freely to us, proud and smiling.

The youngest of them was 15 years old. They were highly trained scouts, well equipped and perfectly organised. The scouts who captured us had immediately tied our hands and taken our cameras.

With AK-47 guns prodding our backs, we had to walk several hundred metres. When an aircraft flew over the city we had to hide under trees, but otherwise we walked with our guards in the centre of the road.

Some of them are extremely wealthy by national standards which may mean they are worth over one hundred thousand pounds.

In turn Aden sells to Yemen practically everything from its stocks of duty-free imports as Yemen and Somalia constitute Aden's principal customers for its transit trade valued at 175 million pounds annually.

On the political level both countries now treat each other citizens equally with their own, having eliminated entry visas, although the Southern Yemeni republic is working on a nationality law defining citizenship.

Yemenis in Aden have, of course, greater attractions than those from here visiting the Yemen seeking employment or business opportunity, because South Yemen, the former British protectorate, is by

(Continued on page 4)

Brandt Hopes French Talks Open EEC To Britain

RAVENSBURG, West Germany, Feb. 4, (Reuters).—West German Foreign Minister Willy Brandt Saturday said he hoped talks he and Chancellor Kurt Georg Kiesinger will be having with Gen. de Gaulle would produce progress towards bringing Britain into the European Common Market.

Brandt, speaking to a local Social Democratic Party rally, did not go into detail about West German tactics for the talks in Paris on February 15 and 16.

But he stressed that he and the Chancellor had agreed Bonn's foreign policy should show no "wardance in the face of the enemy."

West Germany has been seeking ways of bringing Britain closer to the Common Market following France's refusal to allow early negotiations on British entry.

Brandt said: "The deep-rooted Franco-German friendship, particularly among young people, will in the end be stronger than the rigid un-European thoughts of a head of government obsessed by power."

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S. Korea Has Misgivings On U.S., N. Korean Pueblo Talks

SEOUL, Feb. 4, (Reuters).—The South Korean government has expressed misgivings about the secret contacts by the South Korean national assembly.

American Rear-Adm. John V. Smith, the United Nations command's chief armistice officer, and his North Korean opposite number, Maj. Gen. Chung-Kuk Pak, met at the border truce village of Panmunjom, yesterday, according to the South Korean military sources quoted by Donga Radio, a leading commercial station.

The radio said they were believed to have discussed the American demand for the release of the captured intelligence ship and its 82 crew. There was no official confirmation of the meeting.

Earlier, President Chung-Hee Park's press secretary confirmed there was a secret meeting on Friday between Adm. Smith and Gen. Pak, and said Seoul and Washington were cooperating closely on the matter.

Despite the South Korean government's approval, growing parliamentary sentiment against the contacts was expressed by Chung-Hee Pak, chairman of the National Assembly foreign relations committee, from the ruling Democratic Republican Party.

He charged that the United States was trying to solve the Korean crisis by seeking only the release of the Pueblo in the talks and was not paying enough attention to the intrusion into Seoul on January 21 of 31 North Korean commandos who unsuccessfully tried to assassinate the South Korean president.

Pak told a press conference yesterday that South Korea

should withdraw its 48,000 troops from South Vietnam and regain operational control over its forces here from the United Nations command if necessary for defending itself against North Korean intrusions.

In reply to a question in parliament Sun-Un Kim said the government had no plans either to withdraw troops from South Vietnam or send more there.

This is the first time in the 15-year history of the Korean armistice that American and North Korean representatives have held informal talks through the armistice commission channel.

North Korea said last Wednesday it was ready to discuss the Pueblo case at Panmunjom and this was promptly accepted by the U.S. State Department.

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France Speaks First For Industrialised At UNCTAD

NEW DELHI, Feb. 4, (Reuters).—France has been chosen to make the first policy speech on behalf of the developed nations when the United Nations conference on Trade and Development (UNCTAD) resumes here on Monday.

Then for about the next 10 days the 2,500 delegates will listen to policy speeches by delegates from developed and developing nations, before they get down to the hard bargaining for increasing aid to underdeveloped nations.

In a document known as the Algiers Charter, the developing nations have already set out an impressive list on the aid and assistance they are hoping to get from the wealthy nations.

The main point of their argument is that in the four years since the first UNCTAD conference was held in Geneva some parts of their economy have become stronger but the gain has been partly negated by the bigger advances made by the developed nations, which has resulted in a widening of the gap between them.

The developed nations—Japan, Western Europe, North America, Australia, New Zealand, and the Eastern Bloc—have come to the conference full of good intentions, but when it comes to spending more than many of them are now hamstrung by their own chronic financial problems.

Britain and the United States have made it clear that because of their balance of payments difficulties they cannot increase their generosity to the developing nations in terms of hard cash, although they will be quite willing to ease the problems of the poorer nations by an extension of non-financial measures such as the granting of tariff preferences on developing countries' exports of manufactured goods.

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New Political Talks Revive Bonn-Moscow Relations

BONN, Feb. 4, (DPA).—After years of deadlock, Bonn-Moscow relations have of late been revived, and earnest political talks have taken place.

West Germany and Soviet Union have, rather suddenly, discovered their common interest in some kind of contractual agreement to renounce the use of force in solving political conflicts including the German problem.

At the recent West German-Soviet meetings, the contents of which are still kept a closely-guarded secret, the two sides—according to inside information—at first fired heavy broadsides at each other, but then settled down to serious talks on the renunciation of force proposal, regarded by Bonn as the starting point of a new European security policy.

The United States is watching Bonn's "lone action" with a critical eye. Although it supports the West German government's new policy of improving relations with eastern Europe and applauded Bonn's resumption of diplomatic ties with Yugoslavia this week, it still wishes to be consulted when Bonn talks European security with the Soviet Union.

U.S. State Department under-secretary Nicholas Katzenbach has recently admonished Washington's European allies not to push too far ahead in bilateral talks with Moscow.

This was obviously not meant as advice to France only, which has been in close contact with the Soviet Union for the past few years.

To all appearances, Washington fears that the European nations might compete for the favour of Moscow.

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Nasser, Tito Hold Talks Today At Aswan

CAIRO, Feb. 4, (Reuters).—President Tito arrives at Aswan today for talks with President Nasser on the Middle East situation and informed sources said he is expected to stress that a political solution should still be the aim.

The atmosphere has been sobered by last Tuesday's gun duel between the UAR and Israel across the Suez Canal and realisation that United Nations peacemaking efforts are making slow progress.

The 73-year old Yugoslav leader will be greeted with a 21-gun salute on arrival by plane from Addis Ababa and will immediately go into private talks with his old and close friend, President Nasser.

He will not only be giving the UAR President his own assessment of the Middle East stalemate but will carry the views of Asian and African leaders gathered in his tour of Afghanistan, India, Pakistan, Cambodia and Ethiopia.

A part from a recent exchange of prisoners there has been little concrete progress in reconciling the two enemies facing each other across the canal.

Last week's gun battle, in which substantial Israeli losses were claimed followed by reported Israeli reinforcements in Sinai; have only helped harden opinion against making concessions.

The UAR sees little point in direct talks with Israel under UN auspices such as the mixed Armistice Commission until the basic demand that Israeli troops vacate occupied territory is satisfied.

The two soldier presidents, who are being joined on Tuesday in Cairo by President Ismail el Azhari of the Sudan, are expected to call for a withdrawal as a first step, as they did after President Tito's last visit to the UAR in August.

But the general view in diplomatic and political circles is that the talks can achieve little in the present situation apart from emphasising support for the Arab position and keeping the post-war situation under the world spotlight.

Britain Rejects French Right To Veto Benelux Plan

LONDON, Feb. 4, (DPA).—Britain wants her supporters in the European Economic Community to refuse France a right to veto decisions if the projected "Benelux plan" leads to any practical step.

British Minister Lord Chalfont said yesterday.

Addressing students and professors of Lancaster University, Lord Chalfont said that this would be the only condition Britain was putting up.

The British government would work hard to make the "Benelux plan, for closer cooperation between Britain and the so-called 'friendly five' succeed, he said.

London in no way wanted to exclude France from the consultations, or undermine the community of the Six, he added.

Authoritative British sources reported that political and economic cooperation would be given priority under the planned consultations between London and three Benelux countries Italy and West Germany.



THE KABUL TIMES

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Food For Thought

The only way to make a man trustworthy is to trust him; and the surest way to make him untrustworthy is to distrust him and show your distrust.

—Henry Lewis Stimson

OFFICIAL CARS

Undoubtedly, official cars constitute a considerable burden on the government budget. The Wolesi Jirgah, on its part has raised the issue on several occasions urging cuts in the number of cars at the disposal of government officials and restricting their use. Naturally the government itself has been aware of the problem and has been studying how to economise in this area. A realistic appraisal of the situation would require a study of the various possibilities on how a cut could be effected without hampering the normal working procedures.

A look at the public transport system in the capital shows that at present the number of buses serving various routes are not at all sufficient to cope with current demands. What will happen if those officials who make use of government cars are added to the frustrated passengers who now travel by buses?

All the vernacular papers almost every day carry letters to the editor complaining about the problems of public transportation. These complaints are not exaggerated. One has to stand for hours at a bus stop before getting on a vehicle which is already crammed to almost twice its normal capacity. Proper scheduling and routing with some effective supervision could ameliorate the situation.

Every office worker or employee has to be on his job at 9 a.m. throughout the week-days during fall and winter. Considering rain, snow, and mud on unpaved streets, an office worker would have to leave home at least two hours ahead in order to reach the bus stop and catch the bus and then he would have to be lucky to get on one with a vacant seat or enough standing room. If the number of buses put in use were proportionate to the number of passengers, and one could be assured of being transported to one's destination on

time, then a drastic reduction in the number of government vehicles would be reasonable and economical.

Taking into account the difficulties involved, such as lack of funds to procure more buses and lack of trained personnel to run the bus lines efficiently, it doesn't appear feasible for, at least, high ranking government officials to board a bus and reach his office in time. Furthermore, should we sacrifice regularity and efficiency just to save expenses of running and maintaining office cars? A modern government must work like a clock and everything in it ought to be timed and programmed. Saving time and punctuality cannot be achieved through the present public transport system.

We hope that a joint commission will be formed from government members and the Wolesi Jirgah to discuss the problem of cutting down the number of government vehicles in conjunction with the possibilities of improving public transport. After careful studies made on the basis of facts and figures a solution may emerge by which a certain reduction of official cars could lead to the creation of a new transport corporation or the streamlining of the present one to provide adequate and reliable public transport.

The present level of government transport expenditures should be considered as a standard. An amount equal to the agreed cuts should be injected into the public transportation system every year.

In this way it may become possible to seriously consider the prospects of launching fast electric trains and transways for the future. One thing is certain, and that is that public transport problems will continue to grow as the city grows and the country develops.

HOME PRESS AT A GLANCE

Yesterday *Heywad* carried an editorial on the latest developments in South Vietnam. The fresh outbreak of a Viet Cong offensive came at a time when the world was looking forward to the prospects of peace talks resulting from a possible halting of the American bombing over North Vietnam.

The attacks were so severe and carefully planned that at first some of the South Vietnamese provincial cities were falling into the hands of the Viet Cong, the paper said.

However, stiff resistance brought back the control of some of the cities into the hands of the South Vietnamese Government.

Losses on both sides were offensive at a time when there was some understanding reached regarding peace talks.

It mentioned the fact that North Vietnam had accepted the offer of peace talks if the United States halted its bombing missions over North Vietnam.

The fresh Viet Cong offensive has somewhat spoiled the chances of peace talks it said, quoting President Johnson, that as long as the offensive continues there will be no halt of bombing over North Vietnam and consequently no peace talks.

According to the editorial some political observers might even think that the North Vietnamese peace talk proposal was mere propaganda since it was followed by a large scale offensive.

The aim of the propaganda was only to put the blame of shunning peace talks unilaterally on the United States, said the paper.

However, it is highly unlikely that North Vietnam would have taken such a big gamble were the proposals to be rejected by the United States since America on several occasions had made it clear that it would halt bombing if North Vietnam really wanted peace talks.

Anyway, it continued, the latest developments in South Vietnam have not only spoiled the chances of

any peace talks, but have also confronted the country with grave dangers.

There are possibilities that either side may resort to actions which would completely change the very nature of war in that part of the world.

Both sides should realise that at present, no problem can be solved through war and the use of force. They should do their best to keep the peace talks going.

Yesterday's *Anis* in an editorial suggested the establishment of slaughter houses in the provinces and at the same time urging greater cold storage facilities at the capital.

During winter it becomes difficult for livestock to be brought over to the main population centres from the main grazing areas in remote corners of the country.

As a consequence prices rise and meat becomes scarce. It is therefore essential in the interest of keeping the price of meat stable to increase the cold storage facilities in the capital and to establish slaughter houses in the provinces.

The same issue of the paper carried a letter to the editor urging carpet manufacturers to invent new and more imaginative designs.

Only thus, will it be possible for our exporters to promote their sales in the world markets, said the letter.

United States air force planes attacked Hanoi almost eight times daily, the Indonesian ambassador in the North Vietnamese capital has said.

The ambassador Nugroho said in an interview with the privately-owned news agency, *Kantor Berita Nasional Indonesia*, that the North Vietnamese people had become accustomed to American air raids and their daily life carried on normally in spite of the war.

Nugroho, who is in Jakarta for consultations, said the Indonesian embassy in Hanoi had never been hit by any bombs although they once fell 75 yards away from the embassy grounds without causing any damage.

The editorial as quoted by Hsinhua, said the big Tet offensive by the National Liberation Front has



Israel has expropriated 2,000 acres of land in Arab Jerusalem and not 800 as previously announced by Tel Aviv, the newspaper *Al Nahar* reported Friday.

It said information from occupied Jerusalem indicated Israelis had already begun to build roads to prepare new residential areas for Jewish immigrants.

In a dispatch from Amman, *Al Nahar* said the lands expropriated lie in an area below Mount Scopus and extend up to the old Israeli border on the western edge of Arab Jerusalem.

The report said Israeli authorities had withdrawn Jordanian identity cards from inhabitants of Bethlehem and two Jerusalem suburbs. No further details were given.

The *people's Daily* predicted in a comment Friday on the current Viet Cong assaults that "the days when Americans can hang on in South Vietnam are numbered".

The editorial as quoted by Hsinhua, said the big Tet offensive by the National Liberation Front has

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A Scene From VC Onslaught On Pleiku

South Vietnamese Rangers and men of the U.S. 1st cavalry division slaughtered a reported 191 North Vietnamese in Pleiku from among a battalion-sized force that slipped into the city early Friday morning.

Helicopter "gunships" rained with machineguns accounted for most of the toll when they caught the North Vietnamese in an open area that used to be a brothel district in the southeastern part of town.

The city was quiet but tense at sundown following the eight hour battle, which died down at about 5 p.m. (0900 GMT).

The streets were nearly empty, with only a few women to be seen, most of them going home from jobs at U.S. facilities.

Vietnamese chambermaids working at camp Holloway, the U.S. army helicopter base in Pleiku, began leaving shortly after noon Friday many of them in tears as they headed down the road towards the smoke and the sound of gunfire rising from Pleiku.

The clatter of 50-caliber machineguns and the thump of tank and rocket-fire continued in the city for most of the day.

Another North Vietnamese battalion was reported to have entered the city towards evening and government patrols had orders to shoot on sight anyone violating the curfew.

Friday's battle centered on the district said to have been set up by high-ranking Vietnamese officers for U.S. servicemen but which was placed "off-limits" before it ever opened.

The situation in Kontum, 53 kilometres from Pleiku, remained the most serious in the highlands. All available helicopters were diverted there in the afternoon with ammunition for American advisors reportedly surrounded by a full North Vietnamese battalion.

Helicopter pilots said North Vietnamese machinegunners around the city were forcing them to fly around it altogether and that they were able to land at the American camp only under "gunship" escort.

One eyewitness said U.S. air force planes poured so many bombs into Kontum that was "as though they were trying to level the place."

Additional elements of the U.S. fourth infantry division were brought down the road from Dak To to Kontum.

Exhausted hospital personnel in Pleiku said the greatest number of patients were coming from Dak To and Kontum. Sixteen Viet Cong, including several Montagnards and North Vietnamese, were being treated for wounds at the 71st evacuation hospital in Pleiku.

Montagnard sappers and political agents figure prominently in the swelling ranks of prisoners here.

American soldiers from all over the highlands are now recovering from the shock of the massive Viet Cong-North Vietnamese onslaught, and their attitude is hardening.

Many of these men, faced with massive infiltration on all sides and the grim prospect of separating the Viet Cong from the towns people they hold prisoner, believe there is only one choice—either pull out altogether, or use U.S. firepower to the full against the enemy, regardless of the consequences for the population at large.

As to further developments in the fighting, Americans at the Pleiku provincial headquarters predicted simply: "more of the same."

Lt. Gen Vinh Loc, the commander of the second corps region, headquartered here, held a grisly ceremony in the center of the city to tell the people the Viet Cong's responsibility for their plight.

Most of the town's population was rounded up to see a display of 75 enemy corpses and some 24 prisoners in a soccer field.

Gen Loc then presented, as a band played, medals to the "heroes" of the previous day's fighting and warned the towns people that they must help eject the Viet Cong.

All were visibly moved by the spectacle of the bodies. Many vomited, but turned to look again. (AFP)

Vietnam's Biggest Battle In The Offing

Pentagon strategists, despite the current wave of attacks by Viet Cong commandoes, Thursday remained convinced that the war's bitterest battle would soon be fought near the DMZ.

This could be the decisive battle of the war, competent observers say.

For them, the present multitude of well synchronised Viet Cong operations is nothing more than a diversionary device, carefully planned to interfere with the dispatch of American reinforcements to the battle-torn area south of the demilitarised zone.

General William C. Westmoreland, U.S. commander in Vietnam, is sticking by his decision to concentrate as many men as possible near Khe Sanh regarded as the key to Quang Tri and the entire first corps area in the northernmost portion of South Vietnam.

Several days ago, he assured the White House and his military chiefs that with his present force he could turn back any major Northern offensive, according to a reliable source.

This rather optimistic outlook is not universally accepted in Washington. Nonetheless, there is nothing more to do but wait while the general prepares to lay his reputation—and that of the allied troops—on the line in what could be the turning point of the military struggle.

Meanwhile, a number of major U.S. papers are echoing a general uneasiness among the American public: will Khe Sanh become another Dien Bien Phu?

This anxiety is intensified by reports that Vo Nguyen Giap, mastermind of the 1954 victory over the French, is personally directing the Khe Sanh operation.

The most important battle of the war may be about to begin. Or rather this is just a false alert. Whichever is true, the Americans' adversary has already gained a significant psychological advantage.

The widespread Viet Cong commando raids have left a definite impression on public opinion in the United States.

"There is good reason for being worried," the newspapers and radios are saying. The American press has given wide coverage to the daring Viet Cong raid on the Saigon embassy Wednesday morning. Clearly, the Viet Cong action has once again weakened the confidence of the American people in their government.

It was only two months ago during a major war planning session here, that the officials coming from Saigon joined with administration chiefs to assert that the war was taking a very favourable turn.

The American public has not forgotten either that "experts" have been saying for months that the Viet Cong were no longer capable of launching widespread terrorist attacks.

Coming only eight days after the embarrassing Pueblo incident, the latest Viet Cong offensive and its humiliating consequences have brought American exasperation to a new level. (AFP)

VC Raids Bring Radical Changes In Vietnam

South Vietnam is radically changed after four days of Viet Cong lightning raids which shattered vast illusions proped up by the United States success statistics during last year.

The Viet Cong successes, although none of them militarily decisive, have forced the Americans into some bitter stocktaking as U.S. wrong assessments were pierced by Viet Cong rocket grenades and bullets.

The enemy commando thrusts into the heart of Saigon, into ten provincial capitals and forty other South Vietnamese towns and villages have shattered the illusion that "the guerrilla movement is beating the retreat to the jungles."

The Pyjama-clad partisan who suddenly unfolded the banner of the Viet Cong "National Liberation front" in Saigon, Hue, Dalat, Kontum and Quang Tri revealed the questionable nature of the U.S. success statistics of 1967. The optimistic picture of the reliability of the "body count" of enemy casualties—according to which the Viet Cong

forces must have long ago been held to death—are confirmed.

It now emerges that the United States has under-rated the strength, the resources and the resolve of the enemy.

The warning that even a technically top-grade army of the West can today no longer play the role of a "policeman in Asia" has been proven true.

Now that the 500,000 U.S. and 800,000 South Vietnamese government troops have been forced into the defensive throughout the country, the possibility of a "second Khe Sanh" can no longer be excluded.

The American will probably be able to consolidate the military situation in the South in the next few days.

But the loss of trust among the population, which feels it has been cheated of the confidence of U.S.-assured security, can not be repaired.

The military senselessness of the Viet Cong suicide attacks does not impair their political and psychological success.

According to experienced Vietnam observers, the Viet Cong have at least partially succeeded in linking guerrilla warfare with their original doctrine of "khoi nghia" (spontaneous uprising).

In some parts of the population have actively supported the Viet Cong commandos, and helped them to found "revolutionary committees" forming the basis for setting up an N.L.F. government.

The "National Liberation Front" also appears to have succeeded in befriending Thich Tri Quang.

His main fagoda in Saigon seems to have been a Viet Cong command centre during the fighting there.

But American generals admit that they can guarantee the safety of Saigon itself only if they denude the rest of South Vietnam.

The Saigon press censorship prevents such information from getting out by cable, but observers in Hong Kong believe the Viet Cong again have hardened their claim to be recognised as an equal negotiation partner. (DPA)

Saigon: VC Raids Will Have Boomerang Effect

President Johnson Friday reflected the restraint and calm of most Americans in face of the grim and embarrassing news for America from Vietnam and North Korea.

The headlines have been depressing for more than 10 days, but there has been a consistent restraint in Washington reaction to events.

The President appears to have sensed the public mood in his press conference remarks in which he sought to express confidence in the outcome without projecting under optimism.

At the same time, he appeared to press for continued restraint, particularly in relation to the possible return of the 83-man crew of the intelligence ship *Pueblo*, captured by North Korea last week.

He reminded the American people that it had taken seven months to free the crew of an B-47 plane which made a forced landing on Soviet territory in the Barents sea in 1960.

There has been speculation about more military moves by the U.S. But further deployment of forces to meet the enemy offensive in Vietnam is apparently not being planned.

Despite the lack of success in diplomatic efforts over the *Pueblo* affair, there was nothing in President Johnson's manner or words to suggest that further military pressure on North Korea is likely in the immediate future.

Investigations into the *Pueblo* affair in congress have been behind closed doors, and congressional demands for positive action such as an attack on North Korea have been notably few.

Many Americans agree with Senator John Stennis (Democrat, Mississippi) that the nation has suffered a "humiliation" and an "embarrassment" over the *Pueblo* affair. The same terms were also applied to the Viet Cong success in being able to attack the U.S. embassy compound in Saigon and resist the counter-attack for several hours.

But there is little public quarrel as yet with the way in which President Johnson has handled the situation.

Politically, he may have gained. Vietnam "doves" have been noticeably reticent about criticising him over the *Pueblo* incident.

The ferocity and fanatical nature of the Viet Cong assaults on Saigon and other cities have shocked and surprised many Americans who had been led to believe that the enemy's morale was shattered and that it was only a matter of time before he caved in.

Some officials still hold the view that this offensive is in the nature of a final desperate attempt to wrest the initiative in advance of peace negotiations.

President Johnson declined under questioning to go along with that thinking. He was most cautious in his assessment of the situation, obviously not wanting to be caught saying something which could be disproved by events.

The official assessment of the Viet Cong offensive in Vietnam is that it was known in advance and that the United States and its allies can successfully meet it.

Viet Cong success in infiltrating the cities is discounted as representing any new military threat. These attacks are believed to be aimed at trying to win popular support from the Saigon government and officials here believe they will not succeed and that the terror tactics will have a boomerang effect.

Jet Age, E-Type Painter Of The Great

Someone said, jokingly, to Rahmi Pehlivanli—"the BBC interviewer said your English was just not good enough".

Rahmi (he never uses his second name), a twinkle in his eye, refused to be amused. "Did Beethoven", he asked, "compose in English? For painting I use mostly oils. For speaking mostly Turkish. Tell the radio man to learn Turkish. Then maybe we talk better."

Ankara-born Rahmi is a painter of exceptional natural talent. He recalls that he firmly decided to be a painter on his 9th birthday.

His well-to-do family (one brother is a Member of the Turkish Parliament) wanted him to go into commerce—"my people wanted me to be a shopkeeper"—but Rahmi wanted to paint.

They left him to it, but there was little encouragement. "I never have a teacher", he says, "but today (pause) maybe (long pause) many pupils, eh?"

His lack of early instruction seems to have done him well. It left a free flow of movement to his inborn gift. Today "I do not believe in painting only one line. I like to, er, mix, yes, mix. Always I like to mix".

If he has a "line" of his own it is a marriage between the classical pre-Raphaelite concern for detail, with the impressionist's absorption of detail simultaneously in the whole.

In his earlier days Rahmi travelled widely in the Middle East, painting mainly from life and nature. One of his impressionist pieces is called "Scent of flowers". Another of a camel driver, more given to detail, and

ly to buy himself an E-type Jaguar) who does not believe in hiding his light under the proverbial bushel. It pays to advertise and he believes that his best advertisement is his art. He has no qualms about using it.

When floods looted Florence he sent an original painting, one of his favourites, "Tunisian dancing girl", as a gesture of sympathy. The sympathy was genuine enough, so surely must have been its commercial value. About the same time he sent a Biblical painting to the Pope. His Holiness rewarded him with a medal.

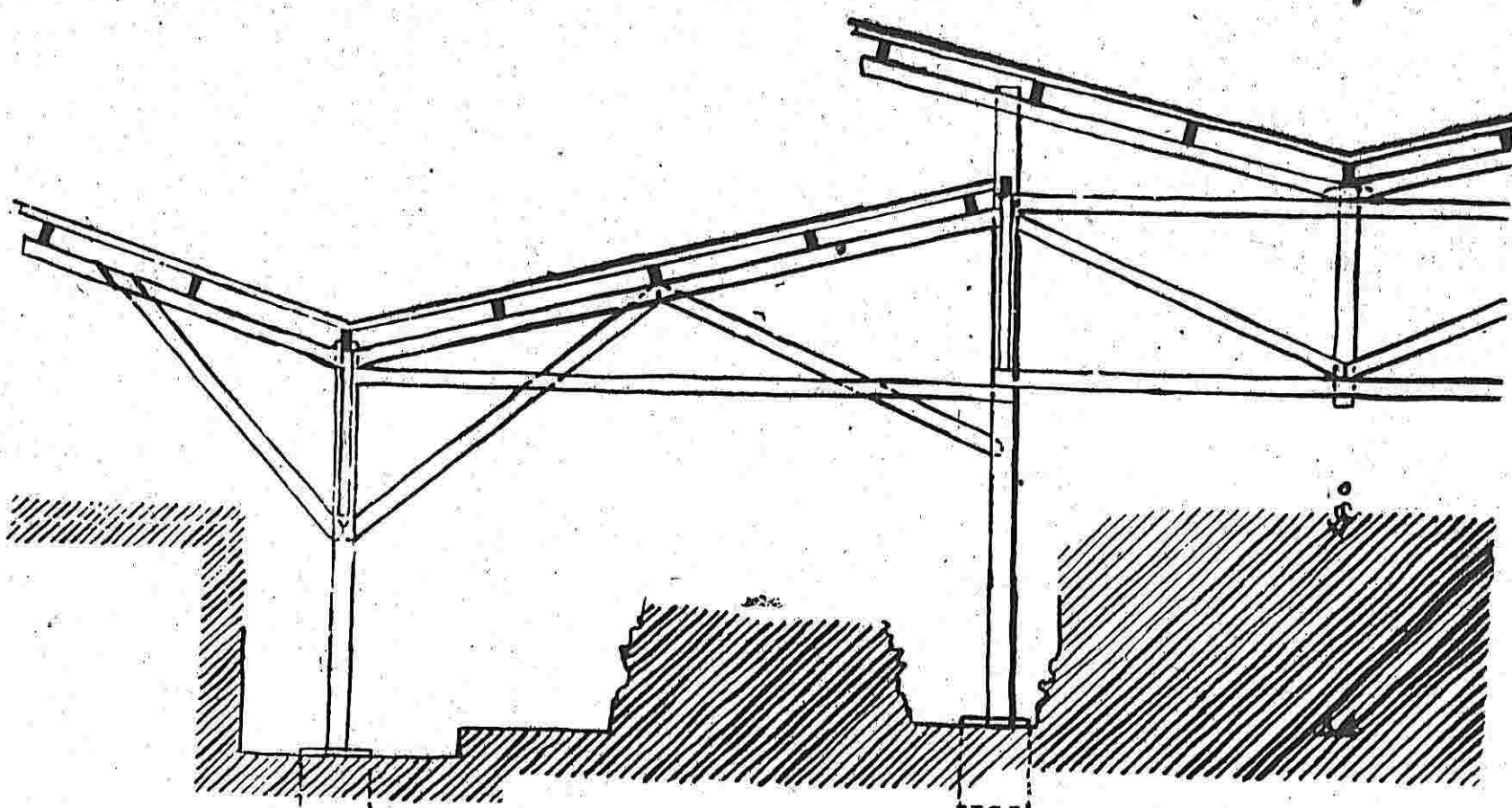
He had just finished a picture of Kennedy in Berlin when the President was assassinated; so he sent it to John-John (his son). He carries Jacqueline Kennedy's letter of appreciation with him.

A devout Moslem, he recently went to Mecca and is working on an 8-metre composition of the Holy place. Simultaneously, he is putting the finishing touches to a 5 metre composition of Kennedy's funeral, set in Arlington cemetery.

He finds the latter, with the 36 attending Heads of State (for detail) and the sorrow and splendour of the ceremony (as a composite background) particularly exciting.

Rahmi now has offices in London and Holland. He has exhibited in 16 countries. He has a travelling secretary, an English ex-Journalist (ex-Times Educational Supplement, ex-Observer, Penderennis column) who is usually one hop ahead of him as he moves from city to city.

The latest venture is exhibiting and selling prints of Rahmi originals. Signed prints cost bet-



CROSS-SECTION, SEEN AGAINST SOUTH-EAST.

Blueprint of the shed which is being built in Hadda to cover the historical monuments found on Tape Shotor. The shed stands over a 500 square metre area.

Needed: A Comparative Dictionary Of The Persian Language

By A.H. Waleh

Differences in pronunciation and sometimes in usage and expressions have caused misunderstandings among speakers of the same language in Afghanistan, Iran and Tajikistan. Normal jealousies between neighbours and foreign intrigue had kept the components of the same cultural unit apart for centuries.

Therefore no steps had been taken to standardise the language in order to facilitate communication among the three nations.

A glance at the past history shows that from the early beginnings of Persian recorded poetry in Samarkand (now in Uzbekistan Republic) more than one thousand years ago to the last vestiges of the Moghal empire in the latter half of the 18th century, commercial intercourse and cultural exchange among various principalities in Trans-Oxiana, India, Afghanistan and Iran were matters of common experience.

Cultural exchange in the form of books was encouraged by rulers and princes of several principalities. The three foyers of the Persian language, Trans-Oxiana (Samarkand and Bokhara), Khorasan (Iran and Afghanistan) and India produced many eminent poets who in turn created three different schools of poetry known as Khorasani, Iraqi and Indian.

Two celebrated poets of the 14th century, Hafiz of Shiraz (Iran) and Kamal of Khojand (Tajikistan) used to exchange poems and one referred in his work to the merits of the other. In one of his poems says things to the effect that while reading his verse both the black-eyed girls of Shiraz and the Turkish beauties of Samarkand cannot help dancing.

Hafiz who could not make a trip to Bengal at the invitation of the local ruler sent one sonnet instead. A line in this says that all parrots in India would become highly articulate through this sweetmeat of Persian poetry going to Bengal.

Hafiz also transcribed one of the works of Amir Khosro of Delhi who was a great sage and man of letters in the 13th century.

Jami of Herat who is considered the last of the great poet-philosophers of the Persian speaking region had travelled extensively. Like Saadi of Shiraz, he had a formal education under the best scholars of his day and was held in great esteem by rulers and princes.

His fame had spread far and wide resulting in his correspondence with various personalities including two Sultans of the Ottoman Empire, Mohammad the Conqueror and Bayazid the second.

The Samanid rulers in Trans-Oxiana, the Seljukids in Iran, the Ghaznavids in Afghanistan and the Moghals in India rendered great services to the elevation and promulgation of the Persian language in their respective kingdoms.

Persian was the lingua franca in the courts of Samarkand and Bokhara, of Isfahan and Tabrez, India in the latter half of the 18th of Ghazni and Herat, of Delhi and Agra.

Even Istanbul, the capital of

the Ottoman Empire, was greatly influenced by the literary quality of the Persian language and the two sultans who corresponded with Jami have left some verses of their own.

During part of the 18th and throughout the 19th centuries two colonial powers, Great Britain and the Tsarist Russia, were implementing their expansionist policies from east, west and north of this cultural unit by actual annexation of some territories or weakening the national spirit.

Disunity and discord among the various parts of the unit and the disruption of all communication among them served the purposes of the colonial powers very well.

So, from the beginning of British rule in India and invasion of Afghanistan and the Anglo-Russian seasaw arrangement in central Asia and that enabled each to influence alternately the matters of state Persian lost its vitality.

It was replaced by English in India, confined to colloquialisms in Afghanistan and was not looked after in Tajikistan.

Iran was the only country which was not actually occupied by a colonial power except briefly during the World War II.

The spirit of nationalism and the belief that Iranian Persian and culture were superior to those of the aliens resulted in polishing and enriching the language.

Except for India where Persian is taught as a foreign language in certain colleges, Afghanistan, Iran and Tajikistan have realised the importance of communication through a common language in order to cooperate with one another and live in peace.

Two seminars in Kabul, a symposium in Doshambe and the forthcoming meeting of Persian men of letters in Tehran bear witness to this fact.

These countries are now fortunately convinced that neither is going to interfere in the affairs of the other. The Soviet Union is also encouraging cultural exchange between Tajikistan and the other two countries.

So there is no reason why there should not be collaboration among the learned societies of the whole region in compiling and publishing works that help standardise the languages.

The first step towards this goal would be the compilation of a comparative dictionary containing Persian, Dari and Tajik dialects to give the reader a comprehensive understanding of the words and expressions.

This was informally proposed to the delegates of the three countries at the poetry symposium in Doshambe by the writer and seconded by Tajik scholars. Dr. Farwiz Natel Khanlari of Iran took it upon himself to see to the compilation of such a dictionary in Iran with the collaboration of Afghan and Tajik lexicographers.

Several Persian dictionaries have been compiled in India and Iran, the most recent and most comprehensive one being that of Dehkhoda. But all these deal

with words and expressions used mainly in Iran.

One dictionary was compiled in Afghanistan about 10 years ago by Abdullah Afghani Nawis but that was a collection of colloquial words and expressions used in Kabul and environs only. It was modelled on the dictionary

(Continued on page 4)

Melina Mercuri Scores

U.S. Recognition of Junta

NEW YORK, Feb. 4, (AFP).—Greek film actress Melina Mercuri said last week that the United States, by resuming relations with the Greek military regime, "is making the Greek people believe there is no hope for them except for a civil war".

She added she would be willing to join any resistance movement.

Miss Mercuri, currently starring in a New York musical show based on the film "Never on Sunday", expressed the fear that Greece might become another Vietnam through civil war.

Satyajit Ray: Indian Cinema's Ist True Poet

Pather Panchali has catapulted Satyajit Ray into the top ring of the world's film directors. It also gave the Indian cinema its first true poet. Aparajito and Apur Sansar followed, to complete a cinematic work of sustained poetic brilliance, perhaps the greatest since Donskoi's Maxim trilogy. Today, after more than a dozen feature films and some "shorts", Satyajit Ray is the Indian cinema, least as far as audiences abroad are concerned. In fact it would be no exaggeration to say, as one Indian critic has done, that since Rabindranath Tagore no other Indian has gained such a worldwide reputation in the cultural field.

Satyajit Ray's films have picked up prestigious international awards almost as a matter of course. The Cannes, Venice, Berlin and San Francisco festivals, to mention only the better known, have all acclaimed Ray's genius. But last year he received an unusual tribute in the form of the Magsaysay award—probably the first to a film director. Hailing him as a "poet of the cinema", the citation says that his emphasise "positive values. His protagonists have faith. Their poverty is not of the human spirit but of circumstances."

Though dissimilar to contemporary film-makers like France's Truffaut (who walked out of Pather Panchali), Spain's Bunuel, Sweden's Ingmar Bergman, Italy's Fellini and Japan's Akira Kurosawa, he has in common with them a new approach to the medium of the film. Basically, this consists of developing an intimate relationship between director and audience. The cinema is regarded not as escapist entertainment but as a medium of creative art, as important as the novel or painting. In Truffaut's Jules et Jim and Resnais' Hiroshima Mon Amour, for instance, the characters, not the plot, are the main focus of attention and are used to convey the director's intensely personal view of life and contemporary problems.

With Ray the aim is the same but the emphasis is different. He likes to recall the words of Nandalal Bose under whom he studied painting in Santiniketan. "Draw a tree, but not in Western fashion. Not from the top downwards. A tree grows up not down." "This", Ray has stated "was basic—this reverence for life, organic growth."

Given the personal vision he wishes to convey in his work, it follows that he must exercise complete control over all aspects of his films. Thus in addition to directing them, he scripts them himself and has lately also been

scoring the music. Satyajit Ray also has an uncanny ability to get the maximum out of his actors. One has only to compare Sarmila Tagore's performances at the hands of Ray and her subsequent appearances in Hindi films to realise the full measure of his command over the cast.

Does Ray have a philosophy of life? Like all great directors he does not work within a formal system of thought. His ideas seem to develop with every film. Thus in his earlier films he is occupied with the Indian, or more particularly the Bengali male while in the latter ones—notably Charulata—women mainly engage his attention. He is above passing moral judgments. In Devi, he virtually refuses to align himself with the forces of "progress" against superstition (In Mahapurush, on the other hand, he pokes gentle fun at religion). In Jalsaghar his sympathy for the decaying zamindar is barely disguised. He is full of paradoxes. In Kanchenjunga, his contempt for the Anglicised upper classes is quite evident. Yet in one of the stories in Teen Kanya he portrays with great affection a character who wears Scottish socks, Oxford shoes, admires Napoleon, and is all in all, something of a prig.

Satyajit Ray has been criticised for failing to come to grips with topical issues like violence, war and social reform. But if he did, he would not be true to himself. He is more interested in the gentler half-tones, the "inadequate man trying to be good", rather than persons cast in heroic moulds. Ray's heroes, Penelope Houston "are the failed poets, the unpublished writers, the perpetual students, men living with dreams in a world in which authority makes jokes, in English, about cricket, and talks seriously about money". In his complexity and contrariness, Ray is Indian to the core. Realism, a certain humanism, poetry and Indianness—these qualities infuse his films.

Yet it is ironic that despite his undoubted genius, Satyajit Ray is something of a stranger to Indian film-goers. His films are rarely screened outside West Bengal. Pather Panchali initially came under official disapproval because of the "wrong image" of India that it supposedly portrayed. When filming Jalsaghar he could not get the arc lamps he so badly needed. Ray himself has said, somewhat

(Continued on page 4)



Rahmi Pehlivanli with President Kaunda of Zambia at the opening of his exhibition in Lusaka.

perhaps revealing his bubbling humour is dubbed "The laughing camel".

But this work earned but small beer. Perhaps his family's choice of commerce as a profession for him was well conceived. Rahmi Pehlivanli is not the sort who is satisfied with pennies when there are pounds to be picked.

In 1961 his business sense took a hand. Since then he has not looked back either as a painter or a man of business.

In that year he decided to become a painter of presidents, prime ministers and princes. Where he was not invited, he invited himself.

Among those he has painted to-date are Presidents Burguliba of Tunisia, Kaunda of Zambia, Kenyatta of Kenya, and the late John F. Kennedy of the United States.

He has also done portraits of the late Sir Abubakar Tafawa Balewa, former prime minister of Nigeria, President Azhari Head of State of the Sudan, King Idaris of Libya and Ethiopia's Emperor Haile Selassie.

Portraits of world leaders, however, is only a small part of his work. He has no studio, though he hopes to build one specially in Holland, outside Rotterdam where he has a business office.

He paints as he goes, mostly in city halls sometimes in Presidential Palaces, sometimes in hotels, often in the open.

Rahmi is essentially a jet-age artist—the came to London recent-

ween £ 1 and £ 2.

A superbly compiled volume of Rahmi prints—captions in his own handwriting in any language required—will shortly be on the market. The price will vary from £ 35 to £ 50.

Looking at Rahmi, handsome head held high, ram-rod straight back, and the gait of a guardsman, one would think he was a member of some elite officer corps. His business acumen could count him among the champions of commerce.

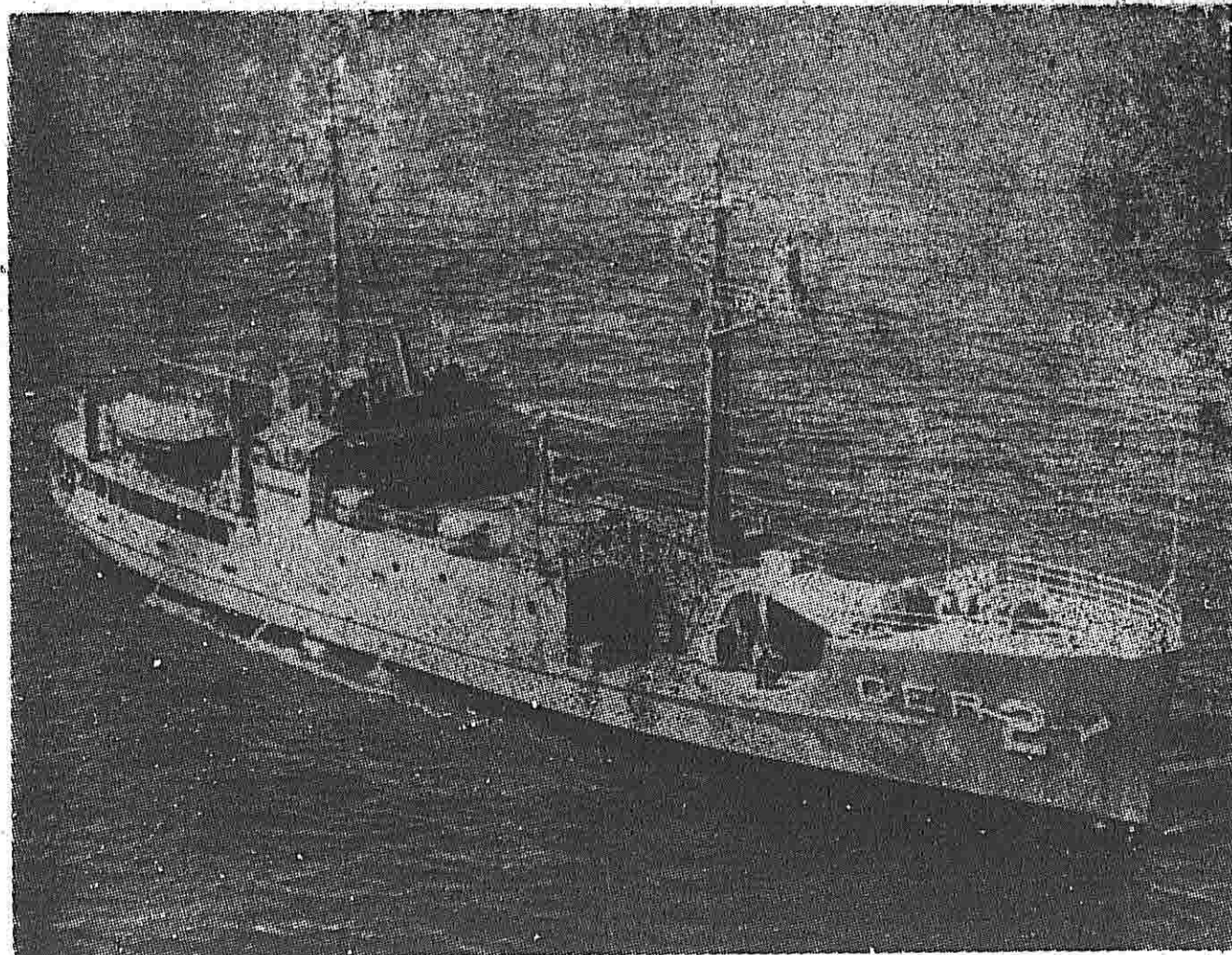
But it is as an artist that he lives and works; and, having seen his paintings, it is as an artist that he will be remembered.

Afghanistan Oligists Form Group In USSR

MOSCOW, Feb. 4, (Tass).—The results of the constitutional reform in Afghanistan form the topic of a monograph published in Moscow.

Roman Akhramovich, the author of the book "Afghanistan in 1961-1966" and vice-director of the Institute of Asian studies, emphasises the activation of public life in that country.

Roman Akhramovich told Tass that Soviet scholars of Afghanistan are now studying the economy, culture and public life of modern Afghanistan. Groups of scholars of Afghanistan have formed in Moscow, Leningrad, Tashkent and Dushanbe. "As far as the literature and languages of Afghanistan go, Soviet experts have done much more than their colleagues abroad", he said.



The U.S.S. Pueblo

NLF Chairman Urges Govt. Troops To Join Viet Cong

SAIGON, Feb. 4, (Reuter).—Lawyer Nguyen Huu Tho, chairman of the National Liberation Front, yesterday told government soldiers and civil servants to

Ties Strengthened

(Continued from page 1) far the better developed of the two countries with its free port.

A British Petroleum refinery, oil bunkering services, building boom during the British days, and brisk tourist and transit trade before the withdrawal of the British military base and closure of the Suez Canal is responsible.

Nevertheless, the raging civil war in Yemen between Republicans and Royalists is being watched with special interest, because any dramatic turn of events or change of fortunes in the north could have repercussions in the south.

As far as is known the government of South Yemen has no intention of getting involved in the struggle, although it sympathises deeply with the Republican regime.

It is anxious to establish happy relations with Saudi Arabia which has common frontiers with both the northern and southern Yemeni republics.

Besides, there are an estimated half a million South Yemeni nationals, mainly from Hadhramaut, resident in Saudi Arabia and doing remarkably well as businessmen, workers, employees, importers, and exporters in some key positions in the government.

As well placed as they are, they would hardly relish the prospect of tension between their mother country and second homeland.

As they form nearly half the entire home-bound population of South Yemen, their monthly cheques to their families in Hadhramaut make up an essential item in the budgets of thousands of families with practically no other or comparable source of income to live by.

Weather Forecast

Skies in the northern and central regions will be cloudy with occasional rain and snow in some parts. Yesterday the warmest area of the country was Jalalabad with a high of 12 C, 53 F. The coldest were Lal and Logar with a low of -32 C, -20 F. Wind speed in Kabul was recorded at 5 knots.

The temperature in Kabul at 10 a.m. was -10 C, 50 F.

Yesterday's temperatures:	
Kabul	2 C -17 C
	36 F 1 F
Kandahar	8 C -4 C
	46 F 25 F
Herat	10 C 0 C
	50 F 32 F
Ghazni	2 C -18 C
	36 F 0 F
N. Salang	-7 C -18 C
	19 F 0 F
Gardez	3 C -22 C
	37 F -7 F



ARIANA CINEMA
At 2, 4:30, 7 and 9 p.m. American film in Farsi **MODESTY BLAISE**
PARK CINEMA
At 2, 4:30, 7 and 9 p.m. Iranian film **THE BURNING TULIP**

MCCARTHY HITS U.S. OPTIMISM IN VIETNAM

WASHINGTON, Feb. 4, (AFP).—U.S. presidential contender Sen. Eugene McCarthy Saturday violently criticised the administration's optimism following recent bloody events in South Vietnam, and called for a political settlement of the war.

"If taking over a section of the American embassy, a good part of Hue, Delta and major cities in the IV corps area constitutes complete failure, I suppose that by this logic if the Viet Cong captured the entire country, the administration would be claiming their total collapse", McCarthy said.

The senator, who recently announced his candidacy in the forthcoming presidential elections, went on:

"We believed the predictions of the State Department. We believed the predictions of the Defense Department. We believed the predictions of the administration. But now it is clear that each prediction has turned out wrong". McCarthy continued: "The administration's reports of progress are the products of their own self-deception."

"In the past few days, the Viet Cong were able to penetrate the American embassy."

He declared: "I see no indication that the administration is willing to accept anything less than a total victory...a victory, it is now clear, that is militarily not attainable."

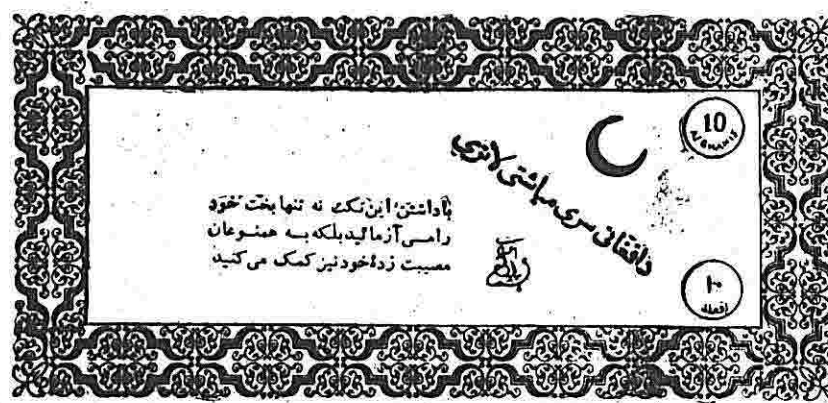
TENDER NOTICE
Tender are invited from trading companies for 270 tons of printing paper by February 10, 1968 to reach the Government Press Ansari Wat. Where bidding will take place.

The prices offered by STC Ltd. and Intourist office are \$ U.S. 179 per ton, with dollar rate Af. 55-50 to be delivered at Sher Khan Bander on the border with the Soviet Union.

Satyajit Ray

(Continued from page 3) sadly, that he is better appreciated abroad than in India. Has all this daunted him? Not in the least. He has written: "It is bareness of means that forces us to be economical and inventive and prevents us from turning craftsmanship into an end in itself. And there's something about creating beauty in the circumstances of shoddiness and privation that is truly exciting...Yes, I am happy to be working where I am." How many of us can say the same?

Be a winner even when you lose.



We have been selling lottery tickets for years at Af. 10 a piece because unlike other lotteries no one loses in Afghan Red Crescent Society raffles. You may be lucky and win one of our brand new cars, an expensive paid trip to Beirut or Tehran, or cash prizes up to Af. 150,000. Even if you aren't lucky you still win. Your money adds up to the society's ability to do a better job wherever and whenever its help is needed.

Buy an Afghan Red Crescent Society Lottery Ticket. They help.

Afghan Week In Review: Kosygin Makes Overnight Stop In Kabul

The visit by Soviet Prime Minister Alexei Kosygin highlighted the news last week. Such visits have become a tradition between Afghanistan and the Soviet Union.

The Soviet leader stopped in Kabul for an overnight visit last week at the invitation of Prime Minister Noor Ahmad Etemadi. For Etemadi it was his first meeting as Prime Minister with Kosygin and a good opportunity to talk over mutual relations as well as international affairs.

"Their talks in Kabul took place" in an atmosphere of cordiality and goodwill," said an Afghan source. They included matters of interest to both the countries, economic issues and regional and international relations, the source added.

When Kosygin left Kabul for Moscow, it was announced that Prime Minister Etemadi had invited him to pay an official and friendly visit at a time convenient to the USSR leader.

The Prime ministers expressed concern over the Middle East crisis and the continued hostilities in Vietnam. Israeli withdrawal from Arab territories occupied during last year's Middle East fighting was demanded.

Kosygin in his speech pledged the active cooperation of his country in implementing Afghanistan's Third Five Year Economic Development Plan. Kosygin was also received by His Majesty the King.

In other news of the week it was announced that His Majesty the King has invited King Hussein of Jordan to pay a state visit to Afghanistan. The invitation is in line with the policy of Afghanistan aimed at fostering friendly relations between this country and the Arab people.

The Minister of Commerce left for Delhi to take part in the second

United Nations Conference on Trade and Development. The conference was opened by Indian Prime Minister Mrs. Gandhi last Thursday.

Afghanistan, hopes this meeting will substantially help solve the trade problems of developing countries which have helped widen the economic gap between the developing countries and industrialised nations.

In Kabul a meeting of the Rural Development Council was held under the chairmanship of First Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of Education. Afghanistan has been attempting during last 10 years to launch a major development programme in rural areas within the framework of Rural Development

Department.

At present more than one million people in rural areas are estimated to have been covered by projects initiated by the Rural Development Department. It is hoped that more areas will be included within the programme during the current five year plan.

The meeting held last week decided that the planning department of the Ministry of Education should work in close collaboration with the education department of the Rural Development Department in order to better coordinate the educational plans of the two departments.

The council consists of representatives of Ministries of Interior, Public Health, Agriculture and Irrigation and Education.

World News In Brief

COPENHAGEN, Feb. 4, (DPA).—The first official act of Denmark's new Foreign Minister Poul Hartling was to recall his ambassador to Washington, Torben Roenne, to discuss the U.S. aircraft which crashed in Greenland with four nuclear bombs aboard on January 21.

PARIS, Feb. 4, (DPA).—West German President Heinrich Lübke and his wife yesterday were to start a three-day visit to Paris, highlight of which will be the formal opening of Germany's refurbished embassy building in the presence of President Charles de Gaulle.

Lübke will be host to de Gaulle at the Palais Beauharnais, on the left bank of the river, Seine, which is one of the architectural gems of the "empire" style in Paris.

BANGKOK, Feb. 4, (Reuter).—The police have unearthed opium worth 2.2 million baht (about 44,000 sterling) from a secret underground vault in a house, a police spokesman said yesterday.

LAGOS, Feb. 4, (DPA).—Nigerian Federal troops have captured the important road centre town of Agbini on the Enugu sector in the war against eastern Biafran secessionists, according to a bulletin issued here yesterday.

MEXICO CITY, Feb. 4, (DPA).—The whole of southern Mexico was shaken yesterday by short, violent earth tremor. Except for a man injured in Acapulco there were no major casualties. In Mexico city street lamps and houses shook, and the electric current was interrupted for about 10 minutes. The centre of the tremor was thought to be 330 kilometres from Mexico City in the Pacific Ocean.

LONDON, Feb. 4, (DPA).—British and Rumania have reached agreement in principle on technical cooperation in a range of mutually interesting projects. This cooperation will be the subject of talks in Bucharest next week between British minister for Technology thony Wedgwood Benn and Rumanian experts. The agreement followed an 11 day visit to Britain of a Rumanian government delegation.

NAIROBI, Feb. 4, (DPA).—Kenya and Uganda yesterday decreed that motor car imports be cut by 20 per cent with immediate effect in an effort to save foreign currency. Each country last year imported 3,000 automobiles.

WEST BERLIN, Feb. 4, (DPA).—West Berlin police Saturday used six water cannons to disperse demonstrators blocking a busy downtown crossroads after attending an authorised demonstration against the Greek government. Some 1,000 demonstrators, including Greek workers living in West Berlin, earlier staged a sit-down protest in front of the Greek military mission here shouting "down with Pattakos", and demanding the release of political prisoners in Greece.

PARIS, Feb. 4, (DPA).—French currency reserves dropped by 270 million francs to 29,884 million francs last month, the Finance Ministry announced here yesterday.

ARRIVALS AND DEPARTURES

KABUL, Feb. 4, (Bakhtar).—Abdul Mohammad Mangal, hammad Kabir Mehdi, and Ghulam Rabani Alkozi, teachers of the School of Mechanics of Kabul, left for Bonn yesterday under FRG government scholarship to learn German.

Mohammad Ebrahim Aslan and Ghulam Haziati Khushdeh officials of the accounting department of the Prime Ministry, left for Bonn yesterday on an observation tour of FRG accounting procedures.

Ghulam Sakhi Osman, an official of the Government Monopolies, left for Bonn yesterday under FRG scholarship to study accounting.

Besmellah and Habibullah, pilots of Ariana Afghan Airlines, who went to the U.S. for training in piloting Boeing jets airliners returned to Kabul yesterday.

The Afghan troupe of artists and singers returned to Kabul yesterday after a long tour of India. The troupe gave many concerts in different parts throughout India.

Faqir Mohammad Istalefi, Mohammad Afzal, Mohammad Hashim, Mohammad Yousef and Abdul Wahab, officials of the Weather Bureau, who went to India six months ago under the Colombo Plan to study meteorology, returned to Kabul yesterday.

V. C. Offensive Continues

(Continued from page 1) were living in hastily erected refugee camps.

The effect of the Viet Cong offensive on the Saigonese may have been more traumatic than elsewhere.

The Viet Cong have been stressing, over their Liberation Radio, how they penetrated the U.S. embassy in the centre of Saigon and mounted nationwide attacks despite the presence of more than a million American, government and allied troops in the country.

More than any other place in Vietnam the capital had been where people came to escape the war.

Many Saigon residents were also shaken by the sight of U.S. helicopter gunships strafing the Viet Cong in heavily populated areas of the city, observers said.

Though American and government officials are claiming that 13,000 Viet Cong have been killed during the past five days observers are uncertain how much the offensive has really cost the guerrillas.

Viewing the surprisingly low figure of 136 civilians announced as having been killed throughout the country they felt that many innocent citizens may have been counted among the supposedly Viet Cong dead.

Civilian hospitals in Saigon alone are over flowing with casualties.

Diplomatic and political officials are trying to determine how spontaneous was the obvious support received by the Viet Cong to enable them to slip unnoticed with their arms into the cities.

American embassy officials said "there have been small groups, particularly in Hue, who have helped the Viet Cong."

The guerrillas were in Saigon for several days before fighting started on Wednesday some in government uniforms and carrying government

identity papers and army issue ration cards.

Some were seen calmly eating in city cafes.

UK, Japan Agree On Nuclear Pact

TOKYO, Feb. 4, (AFP).—Britain and Japan have reached general agreement on a new 30-year Anglo-Japanese nuclear cooperation pact negotiated in Tokyo since January 24, the Foreign Ministry announced Thursday.

The new agreement will be signed early this month at the Foreign Ministry and sent to the Diet for approval in the course of this month.

The new nuclear pact provides for:

—Exchanges between the two countries of plant, equipment and information for the peaceful uses of atomic energy.

—British nuclear fuels for Japan for power reactors imported here from Britain.

—Authorisation to private interests in both countries to undertake nuclear fuel trading.

—Bilateral obligations regarding management and safety measures for reactors and fuels in accordance with the International Atomic Energy Organisation pact.

New Dictionary

(Continued from page 3) of words and expressions of mass circulation compiled by Mohammad Ali Jamalzadeh.

Efforts were made in this direction, I think, by Nematullah and another Tajik scholar whose results have not been brought, at least, to my notice.

According to Dr. Khanlari who is a modern poet and one of the best prose writers in the whole region, most of the dictionaries compiled in Iran so far were not based on recent lexicographical methods and therefore have not met with complete success.

An historical dictionary of Persian being compiled under his auspices by the Pahlavi Foundation will serve a completely different purpose.

All those directly concerned with Persian, Dari and Tajik, will be looking forward to the compilation of such a comparative dictionary to embrace all words and expressions in usage in the three countries.

The inclusion of some words and expressions used in pre-British India would help enrich this dictionary considerably. This will also enable Urdu-speaking people to learn Persian more easily since those words and expressions are widely used in Urdu.

The promulgation and promotion of Persian no matter what it is called in various parts of the region, is the duty of learned societies like the Pahlavi Foundation whose resources and staff are considered a good match to this monumental task.